

INDIANA SUPREME COURT COURT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM



BASIC GRANT ANNUAL PROGRAM ASSESSMENT REPORT October 1, 2008-September 30, 2009

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I. INTRODUCTION

This annual program assessment report is being submitted in accordance with the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children, Youth and Families program instruction ACYF-CB-PI-07-09. During this reporting period, Court Improvement Program Basic Grant funds were used to foster collaborations between the courts and the Indiana Department of Child Services and to provide sub-grants to support local services, programs and projects designed to improve the safety, well-being and permanency of children and families involved in the child welfare system.

II. SERVICES, PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS SUPPORTED WITH COURT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM BASIC GRANT FUNDS

- A. Collaboration between the courts and Department of Child Services.** The Court Improvement Program sponsored a four member team made up of Court Improvement Program and Department of Child Services staff to attend a regional meeting sponsored by the National Center of State Courts and the National Resource Center for Child Welfare Data and Technology on facilitating quality data exchanges between courts and child welfare agencies. The purpose of the meeting was to assist states in improving outcomes for children through timely and accurate data exchanges among the courts, child welfare agency and their partners.
- B. Court Improvement Program sub-grants.** During this reporting period, the Court Improvement Program awarded the following sub-grants to support local services, programs and projects designed to improve the safety, well-being and permanency of children and families involved in the child welfare system:

Allen Superior Court, Family Relations Division. Funds will be used to continue the Mental Health Specialty Track Program for Dependency Cases. This program provides specialized services to families involved in Children in Need of Services (hereinafter “CHINS”) cases whose mental health issues played a part in them coming before the court. The program has the capacity to serve twenty (20) families at a given time. The criterion for participating in this program is that a parent or child in the family has a diagnosis of bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, major depression, MT/DD, or a personality disorder that was a factor in their referral to the court on abuse or neglect charges. The identified families receive intensive mental health services provided through a collaborative effort between the court, a local mental health center and the Department of Child Services.

The goal of this program is to expedite permanency on the cases that involve mental health issues by providing both facilitation and Family Group Decision Making services to these families early in the case. To that end, review hearings are held every three months, rather than every six months. At the three month review hearing cases are referred to Family Group Decision Making to develop a permanency plan instead of waiting until the six month review. The Court also appoints a GAL and CASA volunteer to each of these cases to ensure that the children’s best interests are fully considered from all perspectives. These cases are staffed monthly by a Mental Health specialist, DCS case manager, CASA and GAL to ensure that the needs of the family are being address in a timely manner and that services are being coordinated between the agencies.

Fayette Circuit Court. Funds will be used to purchase and install videoconferencing equipment to allow incarcerated parents in CHINS cases to participate in court hearings, permanency planning /family team meetings and basic visitation with their children without the need to leave the facility in which they are housed. Funds will also be used to purchase and install speakers in the courtroom to allow the judge, attorneys, parties and witnesses to better hear court proceedings.

Henry County Circuit & Superior Court No. 1. Funds were used to install a kiosk and work space in the court atrium to continuously display educational videos on matters related to parenting and children with a focus on preventing child abuse and neglect and to supply court forms and other materials to litigants. Funds will also be used to install videoconferencing equipment in the court, which will allow incarcerated parents of CHINS cases to participate in court proceedings from the local jail.

Howard County. Funds will be used to implement a CHINS Problem Solving Court that will utilize the Functional Family Therapy Treatment Model. Functional Family Therapy is a short-term, evidence based prevention and intervention program that integrates behavioral, system and cognitive intervention strategies to meet the needs of the individual family.

Eligible participants referred to the program will have a substantiated child abuse or neglect report and moderate to high risk service needs. The program provides intensive services of on average of 8-12 hours of direct service time for mild cases and up to 30 hours of direct services for more difficult cases, spread out over a 3 month period and frequent court appearances.

The goal of the Problem Solving Court is to reduce long-term removals from the home and reduce the length of time to permanency.

Johnson Circuit Court. Funds will be used to continue the pre-hearing facilitation program for CHINS and Termination of Parental Rights (hereinafter “TPR”) cases. The goal of the program is to reduce the number of contested hearings, encourage the development of customized dispositional goals and service options earlier in the process, and to help move the parties beyond the legal formalities of the case and focus on reconciliation and permanency.

Indiana Supreme Court Judicial Technology and Automation Committee (JTAC). Funds will be used to offset the cost to design and build a child abuse and neglect module that will be built on an existing extranet called INCite. The module will work in tandem with the statewide Odyssey Court Case Management system and will allow public defenders and other attorneys handling child abuse and neglect cases to manage cases more efficiently. The module will also allow for enhanced access to case information from the courts, for better case tracking, record management, calendaring, and outcome reporting. It is expected that these features will improve the efficiency, effectiveness and quality of legal representation provided and improve the child abuse and neglect court proceedings.

LaPorte Circuit Court. Funds will be used to expand the Court's CHINS facilitation program to provide facilitations at every permanency plan conference to ensure that the permanency of the children is determined in a timely manner, and to ensure that parents, CASA and DCS feel that an adequate outcome for permanency of the children is achieved. The court will also implement a facilitation conference prior to the initial hearing in all TPR cases. This process will be utilized to see if a voluntary TPR can be reached, or in the alternative, to narrow the scope of the TPR hearing by reaching agreement on some of the provisions contained within the petition. It is expected that facilitation at permanency and at TPR will be beneficial to children in that an agreement without the extended time of a hearing, enables a permanent resolution and placement for the children in a timelier manner.

Funds will also be used to host a regional provider fair. All agencies that provide services in the region will be invited to participate along with DCS staff, juvenile judges and juvenile probation officers. The provider fair will give the providers an opportunity to inform caseworkers and probation officers about the programs they offer for children and families. The courts in the region benefit because the officers making referrals for services will have a better understanding of the spectrum of available services from which to choose when thinking about services for the children and families on their caseloads. The families will benefit because the officers making the service referrals will have a better understanding of the programs available and can select services that more accurately meet the needs of the children and families.

Marion Superior Court, Juvenile Division. Funds will be used to continue the pre-hearing mediation and facilitation program for CHINS cases. The goals of this program are to decrease the number of contested fact-findings in CHINS cases, to achieve compliance with the statutory deadline of sixty (60) days to adjudication; to increase the understanding of families of the CHINS legal process; to achieve more timely permanence for children and to decrease the number of CHINS cases that go on to TPR.

Funds will also be used to expand an existing TPR mediation program. The goal of the TPR mediation program is to allow the parties in the case to discuss the issues, reach their own agreements, and come up with a plan which everyone agrees is safe and in the best interests of the child.

Noble Superior Court. Funds were used to provide a summer camp for children who have been found to be CHINS. Victims of child abuse or neglect often internalize family problems and abuse they have experienced or witnessed. They have to grow up too fast and take care of not only themselves, but often their brothers, sisters and parents as well. Camp provides these children a chance to be regular kids. The camp included normal summer camp activities, such as swimming, crafts, horseback riding, and also included team building and leadership activities. Campers were divided into age appropriate groups during different weeks. Therapeutic horseback riding sessions were also provided to children with attachment problems.

Orange Circuit Court. Funds were used to purchase and install a television to view recorded interviews with children in CHINS cases.

Tippecanoe County Superior Court 3. Funds will be used to continue the court mediation and facilitation program. The program provides mediation/facilitation services in dependency cases and includes facilitation of case conferences, permanency planning conferences, and extended family conferences.

Vanderburgh Superior Court. Funds were used to provide a specialized support group for participants in the CHINS Drug Court. The support group met once a week and provided a supportive structured environment which helped participants with treatment issues, achieve the goal of living a sober life and obtain the custody of their children back from the local Department of Child Services.

Additional funds will be used to expand the CHINS parents drug court to increase the number of clients being served and will continue to provide specialized support groups for participants.

III. OVERALL PROGRESS TOWARDS THE GOALS DELINEATED IN THE BASIC GRANT STRATEGIC PLAN

A. Collaboration between the courts and the Department of Child Services with Regard to the Child and Family Service Reviews.

Participate in the Statewide Assessment. This activity has been completed. The Court Improvement Program grant administrator and four trial court judges participated in the 2007 Statewide Assessment. This participation included attending meetings, participating in conference calls and assisting with the drafting of the assessment report. The collaboration between the courts and the Department of Child Services continued throughout the Child and Family Service Review (hereinafter “CFSR”) process.

Inform all trial court judges of the results of the CFSR, particularly the PIP when it is completed James Payne, Director of the Department of Child Services and Jerry Milner, Vice President of Child Welfare Practice at the Center for the Support of Families presenting the CFSR findings at the Annual Juvenile Judges Conference in June 2008.

Indiana was determined not to be in substantial conformity with any of the seven CFSR outcomes, and in substantial conformity with only three of the seven systemic factors. As a result, Indiana was required to develop a Program Improvement Plan (hereinafter “PIP”) to address all areas of non-conformity. Indiana’s PIP was approved by the Children’s Bureau Administration on Children, Youth and Families in June 2009.

Details of the PIP were shared with Child Welfare Improvement Committee on May 1, 2009 and with the Court Improvement Program Executive Committee on August 17, 2009. It is expected that Juvenile Court Judges will be updated on the status of the PIP, with special emphasis on the legal/court related action steps at the 2010 Annual Juvenile Judges Conference.

Implementation of PIP. The Court Improvement Program will be collaborating with the Department of Child Services on implementing four (4) PIP benchmarks. The first meeting on these benchmarks was held in July 2009. The Court Improvement Program and the Department of Child Services will continue to meet on these benchmarks throughout the implementation of the PIP.

Identify any changes in legislature that might be suggested as a result of the CFSR. There have not yet been any changes in legislature identified as a result of the CFSR.

Identify any changes in court rules or court practices that might be suggested as a result of the CFSR. There have not yet been any changes in court rules or court practices identified as a result of the CFSR.

Educate judiciary on changes in DCS policy or practice as a result of CFSR. The judiciary has not yet been educated on changes in DCS policy or practice that resulted from the CFSR.

- B. Continued Collaboration on the IV-E Review.** This activity has been completed. Indiana's IV-E foster care eligibility review took place January 26-30, 2009. The Court Improvement Program grant administrator attended the entrance and exit conferences. The final report has not yet been issued, but the preliminary findings have been shared with the Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee of the Judicial Conference of Indiana and the Court Improvement Program Executive Committee.
- C. Collaboration Regarding House Enrolled Act (HEA) 1001, legislation that significantly changes child welfare funding and juvenile court procedures.**

Participation by representative juvenile judges and the Department of Child Services in legislative meetings and on the language of the bill. This activity has been completed. Representative juvenile judges and the Department of Child Services participated in legislative meetings during the 2008 legislative session.

Collaborative Efforts with the Department of Child Services to work out plans and procedures for implementation of the legislation and follow-up training and developing uniform orders for judges. This activity has been completed. The Indiana Judicial Center, Department of Child Services, judges and other affected stakeholders, with the support of the Court Improvement Program, collaborated to develop and implement procedures and coordinate training events for implementation of HEA 1001. The Benchbook Committee worked with staff of the Department of Child Services to create standardized court reports and court orders.

Continued monitoring, evaluation and revision of policies, procedures and forms used in the implementation of House Enrolled Act 1001. This has been an on-going initiative since the passage of HEA 1001.

- D. Court Improvements Efforts at the State Level.**

1) Length of time to finalize adoptions

Determine statewide how many adoptions are pending 6, 12, and 18 plus months after entry of judgment on TPR. This project is expected to be initiated in early 2010.

Explore efforts to expedite appeals in other jurisdiction. This activity has been completed.

Collect data regarding the number of appeals from TPR judgments from each county; length of time from filing of notice of appeal through decision handed down; length of time from end of briefing until decision is handed down. This activity has been completed. A comprehensive study on the impact of TPR cases on permanency was conducted in 2008. The study reviewed all TPR cases in Indiana from 2003 through 2007 and investigated methods to improve permanency for children awaiting adoption. It included an in-depth review of all 539 cases appealed during the period, assembling data on filing issues, timing problems, statutory compliance, and other issues. The analysis of the resulting data centered on the average number of days elapsing at critical stages of the appeal and the total time for each appeal to be completed. A forty-two page final report entitled “A statistical Analysis of Termination of Parental Rights Cases 2003-2007.” was presented to the Court Improvement Program Executive Committee and the Child Welfare Improvement Committee.

Discussions with the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals regarding the data collected and the need, if any to expedite appeals of TPR’s. This activity has been completed. The results of the comprehensive study on the impact of TPR cases on permanency was presented to the Court Improvement Program Executive Committee and upon its recommendation, to the Indiana Supreme Court Rules of Practice and Procedures Committee for review.

Ongoing discussions of needed changes, if any to the appellate procedure depending on the review of the data. In January 2009, the Child Welfare Improvement Committee met to formulate tangible recommendations to reduce the time to complete TPR appeals, which would enhance the permanency and well-being of children who find themselves in a state of legal limbo. The recommendations have been submitted to the Indiana Supreme Court Rules of Practice and Procedures Committee and are currently under consideration.

2) Length of time to establish permanency and close case.

Seek 3 counties as Pilot Project Volunteers to conduct monthly file reviews on cases that are older than 12 months. This activity has been completed. The Court Improvement Program and the Department of Child Services collaborated to recruit three counties to participate in the Permanency Pilot Project. The pilot counties will review cases where parental rights have been terminated, adoption is the permanency plan but the adoption has not yet finalized. The teams will look for delays in permanency, the causes for the delays and develop a protocol for responding to the reasons for the delays.

Develop a protocol/form for Review Team to identify cases and establish a regular and routine review of cases. This activity has been completed. The Department of Child Services developed a Guidance Memo for the pilot counties, which lays the groundwork by which the Court

Permanency Pilot Project will operate. The project has been implemented in one county and it is expected that the other two counties will start reviewing cases beginning in December 2009.

Evaluate the success of the pilot projects by comparing the number of adoptions not completed within 6, 12, and 18 months of adoption before the project vs. after the project. The project evaluation has not been initiated.

If the pilot projects are successful in reducing delay, identify 3 more counties to agree to pilot the project. This activity has not yet been initiated.

Replicate the project statewide. This activity has not yet been initiated.

3) Forum for ongoing meaningful collaboration between the courts, Department of Child Services, and other stakeholders.

Create a multi-disciplinary task force. This activity has been completed. The multi-disciplinary task force was established in 2007. Members of the task force were jointly selected by Indiana Supreme Court Chief Justice, Randall Shepard, and James Payne, Director of the Department of Child Services. The task force is made up of juvenile court judges, Department of Child Services staff members, GAL/CASA, foster parent and service provider representatives and Court Improvement Program staff.

The task force has been named the Child Welfare Improvement Committee and meets on a regular basis. The committee assists with planning Court Improvement Program activities and provides input and guidance on Court Improvement Program grant applications and strategic plans.

The final CFSR Report and the approved PIP have been shared with the committee. The committee will monitor the implementation of the PIP and will work with the Court Improvement Program grant administrator, Department of Child Services, and other child welfare stakeholders to plan and support projects that are responsive to the needs identified in the CFSR and PIP.

4) Needs of local courts for additional services, programs and projects to ensure good outcomes.

Continue to provide CIP funding to existing sub-grants and to encourage other counties to replicate existing successful projects. This is an on-going activity. Sixteen (16) sub-grants were awarded during this reporting period. Of the sub-grants awarded, eight (8) awards were for continued funding of existing programs, and eleven (11) awards were for new programs or projects.

Evaluate the success of the sub-grant initiatives. The Court Improvement Program has not conducted a formal study of the effectiveness of sub grantee programs, however, sub grantees are required to evaluate the effectiveness of their programs and submit the results of their

evaluations at the end of their grant term. During this reporting period, the following program evaluations were received:

Allen Superior Court, Family Relations Division. Grant awarded to provide specialized mental health services to CHINS families. Grant period October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009. This program provides specialized services to families involved in CHINS cases whose mental health issues played a part in them coming before the court on a CHINS case.

During the grant period, seventy-six (76) diagnostic interviews, three hundred and forty (340) facilitations and thirteen (13) Family Group Decision Making Conferences were conducted. Since January 2009, there have been three (3) cases that have reached permanency and several cases that are pending. Preliminary data indicates that families participating in the Mental Health Specialty Track Program for Dependency cases reach permanency in six to nine months instead of the twelve plus months that has been the norm for other CHINS cases.

Delaware Circuit Court, Juvenile Division. Grant awarded to establish a volunteer mentoring program. Grant period July 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009. This program was a collaborative effort between the Delaware Circuit Court, Juvenile Division, the Delaware County Youth Opportunity Center and the Indiana Department of Workforce Development. The purpose of the volunteer mentoring program was to help youth transitioning from the child welfare system determine career interests, develop job skills and secure and retain employment.

Due to unusual circumstances, the start of the project was delayed until early 2009. Once work on the project began, plans for implementing the program were developed. This included guidelines for identification of the students, a process for hiring a mentor coordinator and development of appropriate job descriptions. The mentor coordinator was hired and developed a curriculum to be utilized with students regarding “soft skills training” related to the world of work. Youth assigned to the program by the juvenile judge met one on one with the mentor coordinator to complete the training program. Mentors from the community were recruited and trained. Once trained, the mentors were paired with youth who had completed the training program.

As of June 2009, there were eight youth participating in the program. The youth received extensive information regarding work force preparation. They took career interest surveys and had the opportunity to take part in career searches. They received training regarding strategies to utilize during interviews and participated in mock interviews. Job applications were completed for practice and information concerning the writing of resumes were provided. In addition, information was provided regarding the school to work program, post secondary training opportunities and scholarship and grant opportunities.

Elkhart Circuit Court, Juvenile Division. Grant awarded to hire a system of care coordinator, to establish a family resource center and to purchase computer equipment for the juvenile court. Grant period July 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009. The system of care coordinator was hired. The grant provided part of the salary and the remainder of the salary was provided by community partners. Through the coordinator’s efforts, additional grant funds were brought into the community and school behavioral programs were initiated in homes, eliminating the need for

formal services down the road. The family resource center was also established. The resource center provides a space for waiting children and contains brochures on statewide and local programs and resources for families waiting for court hearings. Parenting videos were also purchased and are played in waiting area where families wait for court hearings. A laptop computer was also purchase.

Henry County Family Court. Grant awarded for a family court drug treatment program. Grant period July 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009. Identified CHINS families who were referred to the program received a drug and alcohol assessment and treatment services from a local service provider. Treatment services ranged from inpatient treatment, intensive outpatient treatment, relapse prevention programming, aftercare services and individual counseling.

The program served eighty (80) individuals. Of those individuals there were 10% that were successful in treatment, 5% that were not appropriate for treatment, and 85% that either relapsed, dropped out of the program, did not comply or were removed from treatment. General observations of the program were that participants who were invested in their treatment completed. Unfortunately, the overall majority of participants did not succeed in treatment. The drug problem in the community is far greater than the services available locally, and with no inpatient service in town it was very difficult to provide adequate treatment to those in need without seeking services outside the county.

Johnson Circuit Court. Grant awarded to establish a pre-hearing facilitation program for CHINS and TPR cases. Grant period December 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009. The goal of the program is to reduce the number of contested hearings, encourage the development of customized dispositional goals and service options earlier in the process, and to help move the parties beyond the legal formalities of the case and focus on reconciliation and permanency.

Seventy-five (75) facilitations were conducted and agreements were reached in seventy (70) of the facilitations. The initial experience with the Facilitation Project is that it is expediting the processing of referred cases by approximately four to five weeks. The savings in time spent in case processing is borne out primarily by getting all parties meaningfully involved and prepared earlier in the case process and the development of agreements on adjudication, dispositional goals, and placements.

Facilitation also is proving to have more abstract benefits. Facilitations effectively levels the playing field between the professional participants, the CASAs, and the parents. As the apparent power inequity is reduced, parties are more willing to be flexible regarding the position. Facilitation increases the personal accountability between parties because it forces them to address each other, and the respective positions, directly. Even in those cases where agreements are not reached, facilitations improve the case process by requiring parties to define, refine, and justify their positions.

The timing of the implementation of the Facilitation Project was particularly beneficial. Johnson County, like many Indiana jurisdictions, was seriously affected by the economic downturn which began in late 2007 and was recognized as such in 2008. One major manufacturing employer closed its doors and several other large employers experienced substantial reductions in labor

force. In addition, Johnson County suffered the devastating effects of a 100 – Year flood in June 2008, which caused the destruction of hundreds of homes and businesses and the county office building which housed the CASA Program and the Prosecutor’s Office.

While a direct connection cannot be proven, the impact of these economic factors is manifest in the CHINS / TPR caseload in Johnson County. From 2007 to 2008, the CHINS caseload swelled from 70 to 159 cases, an increase of 97%; during the same time the TPR caseload increased from 29 to 41 cases, an increase of 41%. The facilitation project has provided the Johnson Circuit Court with an unparalleled tool with which to respond to the sudden and dramatic spike in CHINS and TPR caseloads. The number of contested court hearings has been reduced, allowing the Court to manage the increase in caseload without a corresponding increase in judicial officer or personnel time. The average length of time it takes a CHINS case to progress through the judicial proceedings has been reduced.

Marion Superior Court, Juvenile Division. Grant awarded to establish a CHINS pre-hearing mediation and facilitation program in order to reduce the number of contested Fact Findings. Grant period July 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009. The Juvenile Court convened a court process team comprised of magistrates, DCS representatives, public defenders, GAL/CASA representatives and other court personnel to help structure the court Mediation program. An attorney trained mediator was hired in mid-January 2009 and the first mediation session occurred on March 5, 2009.

Toward achieving the objective of reducing the number of contested Fact Findings, two hundred twenty-nine (229) cases were referred for mediated settlement conferences between March and September 2009. Of the two hundred twenty-nine cases, one hundred and twenty-one (121), or 53% resulted in a full agreement being reached at the end of the mediated session; sixteen (16) or 7% produced partial agreements; fifty-one (51) or 22% produced no agreements; twenty-three (23) or 10% were not held due to at least one party failing to appear for the mediated session, and eighteen (18) or 8% were cancelled and not rescheduled. Of the fifty-one (51) sessions that resulted in no agreement, thirty-six (36) were eventually resolved without having to go to a contested Fact Finding hearing.

The percentage of cases that attended mediation and avoided a contested Fact Finding hearing is over 92%. Eight (8) cases have yet to be resolved with or without a Fact Finding hearing. This leaves only seven (7) of the one hundred eighty-eight (188) sessions actually held that resulted in the parties taking the case through a contested Fact Finding hearing. These seven cases represent a mere 3.72% of the sessions that were actually held. As verification, a preliminary review of the Quest court case management system shows two hundred forty (240) cases disposed of by contested fact finding for 2008. The court is currently far below that pace for 2009, showing only thirty-one (31) cases disposed of in the same manner through July 2009.

The mediation process has provided an early opportunity for parties to “buy-in” to whatever agreements and plans the group decides on. This front-loaded process capitalizes on the motivation that is created by the removal of the children from the home and supports the engagement of parents in solutions to the causes for removal. The court is discussing utilizing a

consumer satisfaction survey in an attempt to capture families understanding of, and satisfaction with the court mediation process.

The court continues to work on data tracking in the Quest case management system to determine whether the mediation process achieves a quicker reunification, or more timely permanence, as well as a decrease in the number of CHINS cases that result in TPR.

Noble Superior Court. Provided funding for a summer camp for children who have been found to be CHINS. Grant period June 1, 2009 through September 30, 2009. Thirty-two (32) youth attended a weeklong camp and engaged in team building and leadership activities as well as crafts and physical activity.

An additional eighteen (18) youth with attachment issues attended a weeklong therapeutic horseback riding program. The sessions taught the youth about the autonomy of a horse, how to care for and groom a horse, and horseback riding.

There were no objective outcome evaluations. Information received from parents, foster parents, therapists, case managers, and the youth themselves indicate that the camps were enjoyable and memorable. One of the youth who participated in the therapeutic camp has severe mental and physical problems, at least partly due to fetal exposure to alcohol and drugs. After his work with the horses he was more calm and in control of his emotions.

Vanderburgh Superior Court. Grant awarded to support the Vanderburgh County CHINS Drug Court program. Grant period, October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009. The program served sixty-six (66) participants and conducted over 1,500 drug screens. Twenty-five (25) participants completed the program satisfactorily, and were able to obtain custody of their children.

Funds were also used to provide a specialized support group for the Drug Court participants. The support group met locally once a week and was facilitated by one of the therapists that participate on the CHINS Drug Court Advisory board. Day care services were provided while participants attended the group. The support group was an integral part in the recovery process of the participants and allowed for quicker reunification of parent and child.

IV. ANY FINDINGS, RECOMMENDATIONS OR REPORTS OF THE STATEWIDE TASK FORCE

There were no findings, recommendations or reports issued by the Statewide Task Force in this reporting period.

V. RESULTS OF ANY ASSESSMENT OF ACTIVITIES FUNDED DURING THE PROGRAM PERIOD

There were no assessment of activities conducted or funded in this reporting period.

VI. CONCLUSION

The Indiana Supreme Court, Court Improvement Program, Indiana Department of Child Services and the Child Welfare Improvement Committee are committed to working together to identify and implement systematic changes necessary to improve the safety, well being and permanency of children in Indiana's child welfare system in the upcoming year.